

PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

For Immediate Release

November 23, 2005

Contact Person

John W. Vaudreuil
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Robert G. Smith, DOB: 8/26/81, formerly a resident of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to a charge that he conspired with other members of the Latin King Nation to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine.

The guilty plea was accepted by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb and sentencing was scheduled for February 14, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. Smith faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The proof at the guilty plea hearing established that Smith became a member of the Latin Kings when he was approximately 12 years old. After leaving the Reservation for several years, he returned and rejoined the Latin Kings in early 2001. From that point until June 2002, he assisted the gang in selling powder and crack cocaine.

Thirty-five defendants have already been sentenced in this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. In addition to Smith, Donald Fairbanks is presently pending sentencing following a guilty plea. A trial of seven remaining

defendants is scheduled to begin in federal court in Madison on December 5, 2005.

The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

#